

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [026] as follows:

[026] User control over the content of the private and public portions of the user's knowledge profile enhance the privacy of the system, protecting electronic documents from unwanted intrusion by others, including searchers. Unrestricted access to the public portion of the user knowledge profile may be provided to other users, for instance those in a particular organization. The private portion of a user knowledge profile may, on the other hand, have a restricted access and may require specific authorization by the owner for the provision of information concerning the user knowledge profile, and the owner, in response to a specific request. For example, read access to the private portion of the user knowledge profile may be limited to the user. A host computer that hosts the private portion of the user knowledge profile may be denied read access.

Please amend paragraph [035] as follows:

[035] **Figure 2** is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary network environment 30 that illustrates the distributed construction, maintenance and storage of a profile (or profiles) regarding an entity (e.g., an individual). A profile service provider 34, according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, ~~is also shown on that~~ may operate within the network environment 30 to coordinate and facilitate access to one or more profiles of the individual 32 in a manner that affords the individual 32 control over such access, but that also provides meaningful access to a query the profile by a requesting entity.

Please amend paragraph [066] as follows:

[066] Turning now to the public and private profile portions 86 and 88, while only the profile owner 52 has write privileges with respect to each of these portions 86 and 98, it will be noted in one embodiment, public read privileges to the public portion 86 are provided, while read privileges for the private profile portion 88 are again limited to the profile owner 52. Therefore,

for example, when the profile owner 52 is the profile subject, read access to the private profile portion 88 may be limited to the profile subject and a host computer that hosts the private profile portion 88 may be denied read access. Accordingly, the public profile portion 86 may be viewed as being profile information that profile owner 52 has authorized for relatively unrestricted publication.

Please amend paragraph [080] as follows:

[080] The profile subjects 90 contacted as a result of the contact request may then elect to respond to the requesting entity 50, either through the profile service provider 34 or the website 42 so as to optionally maintain their anonymity. In an alternative embodiment, the profile subject 90 may communicate directly with the requesting entity 50, where anonymity is not a concern and the profile subject 90 wishes to make him or herself ~~known~~ known to the requesting entity 50 for specific purposes. For example, the requesting entity 50 has identified a particular profile subject 90 as being a candidate for the purchase of a digital camera, the contact request communicated to the profile subject 90 may include an offer to sell a camera at a very favorable purchase price. The profile subject 90 may wish to purchase the camera, and thus make him-or-herself known to the requesting entity 50.

Please amend paragraph [081] as follows:

[081] In one embodiment, the website 42 is shown to monitor responses from profile subjects 90 to the requesting entity 50 at block 112. This embodiment requires that responses be channeled through the website 42. This enables the website 42 to report to the requesting entity 50 regarding candidates and responses, and thus quality a payment from the requesting entity 50 for access to a profile (e.g., an external profile portion 82) that is constructed and owned by the website 42. For example, the requesting entity 50 and the website 42 may enter an agreement in terms of which payment is made to the website 42 by the requesting entity on the basis of a number of candidate profile subjects 90 included in the query results 66. Further, a payment to the website 42 may be made dependent upon the number of responses received by the requesting

entity 50 responsive to the anonymous contact request. In yet a further embodiment, the payment made from the requesting entity 50 to the website 42 may be dependent upon a number of transactions concluded between requesting entity 50 and profile subjects 90.

Please amend paragraph [084] as follows:

[084] **Figure 9** is an interaction diagram illustrating a sequence 102 of interactions between a requesting entity 50, a profile ~~owners~~ owner in the form of website 42, the profile service provider 34 and a profile subject 90. In this example, the query generated by the requesting entity 50 at block 104 is communicated directly to the profile service provider 34. The query generated at block 104 may specify that the requesting entity 50 wishes to run the query against the profile databases (e.g., the external profile portions 82) of specific external profilers (e.g., identified websites 42) and/or private and public profile portions 86 and 88 of a profile 80 constructed by the profile subject 90, to which the profile service provider ~~86~~34 has access. It is envisaged that the requesting entity 50 may specify the scope of the query (e.g., identify which external profile portions 82 that the query is to be run against, and also identify the profile portions ~~82~~86 and 88 be searched).

Please amend paragraph [104] as follows:

[104] The preceding description of **Figure 11** is intended to provide an overview of computer hardware and other operating components suitable for implementing the invention, but is not intended to limit the applicable environments. One of skill in the art will immediately appreciate that the invention can be practiced with computer architectures and configurations other than that shown in Figure ~~N~~11, including hand-held devices, multiprocessor systems, microprocessor-based or programmable consumer electronics, network PCs, minicomputers, mainframe computers, and the like. A typical computer system will usually include at least a processor, memory, and a bus coupling the memory to the processor. The invention can also be practiced in distributed computing environments where tasks are performed by remote processing devices that are linked through a communications network.